

**COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE
OF THE UNITED
JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF METROWEST**

TED EISENBERG
Chairperson

DAVID M. MALLACH
Director

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

JEROME N. WALDOR
President

HOWARD E. CHARISH
Executive Vice-President

Past Chairpersons

MORTON BUNIS
LOUIS J. COHEN*
DR. ALAN H. HERMAN
PHILIP E. HOFFMAN
MARTIN KESSELHAUT
BENEDICT M. KOHL
MURRAY J. LAULICHT
JAQUELINE LEVINE
D. BERYL MANISCHEWITZ
LEON A. MARANTZ
RABBI NORMAN R. PATZ
ADRIAN M. UNGER
SIDNEY M. WEINSTEIN

**Deceased*

May 10, 1993

Ms. Pamela Goldstein
Newark City Hall
920 Broad Street
Newark NJ 07102

Dear Pam,

Please find some notes I compiled summarizing the discussion at the meeting of African American and Jewish community leaders on March 23rd. Take a moment to review them, and let me know if you are able to attend our next dinner meeting on Monday, May 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Sills, Cummis, Zuckerman, Rabin, Tischsman, Epstein and Gross at 1 Riverfront Plaza in Newark. Contact us A.S.A.P., to assure a good turn-out. You may respond by calling David Mallach at 201-884-4800, ext 175, or calling me at home (201-762-1854).

Best regards,

Deborah M Prinz

Deborah M Prinz
Chairperson,
African-American-Jewish
Leadership Taskforce

*Freida
please
RSP-yes
ok*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN-JEWISH LEADERSHIP TASKFORCE MEETING

March 23, 1993

Sills, Cummis - Conference Room
1 Riverfront Plaza
Newark

Present:

Lydia Barrett
Sam Convissor
Jim DuBose
Ted Eisenberg
Pamela Goldstein
Jeffrey Greenbaum
Ellen Greenfield
Gus Henningberg
Keith Jones
Jackie Lawrence
Ellen Lynette
David Mallach
Deborah Prinz
Assemblyman Ronald Rice
Bob Starr
Richard Thigpen
Gail Thompson
Jerome Waldor
Barbara Wright-Bell
Herbert Zuckerman

There was agreement that an African-American/Jewish dialogue for the '90's would have to take current social, political and demographic realities into account in order to be productive or worthwhile.

- * avoid rehashing outdated, circular arguments
- * avoid comparing records of persecution
- * speak honestly about current perceptions
- * listen to and hear what others are saying

The question was raised of the possibility of including representatives of other groups in this dialogue: Asians, Latinos, college students?

It was observed that, in order for a mutual agenda to be established, it would have to serve the self-interests of both (or all) communities involved.

The question was raised about establishing an agenda focused on the future of Essex County with Newark as its commercial and cultural hub, and taking into account the current trends in demographics (e.g. suburban migration patterns and the changing ratio of whites to non-whites in various areas).

It was observed that leaders openly supporting joint African-American/Jewish efforts carried with it the potential risk of inviting criticism from within each community. It was generally agreed that this was a risk worth taking in the interest of improving relations between and among communities.

It was suggested that articulation the most urgent priorities of communities represented in this group (or identified by them) might lead to cooperation or collaboration on specific projects.

The interplay of social class and economic factors in the discussion of racial tensions was noted.

Members began to articulate various current perceptions held by themselves and/or groups of the world, other groups and their objectives, themselves and their own priorities, others and their priorities.

There was division between those who advocate a continuing dialogue as an end in itself and those who felt a more urgent need to establish a goal for the group to pursue. Continuation of dialogue was viewed as necessary to develop momentum, but not as the sole purpose of such a group.

The question was raised about the possibility of co-chairmanship of this Group in the hope of reinforcing the sense of bilateral leadership from the start.

It was agreed to limit the size of the group for the present in the interest of promoting familiarity and open, direct communication. Suggestion of any others to be invited were to be directed to Deborah before the next meeting.

It was agreed to limit the length of future meetings to no longer than two hours and to aim for a relaxed, "round-table" atmosphere.